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ASSOCIATION OF
AMERICAN RAILROADS
OFFICE OF INFORMATION AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, January 21, 1982 -- Freight traffic on major U.S. railroads during the week ended January 16 totaled an estimated 14.1 billion ton-miles, 20.2 percent below the corresponding week a year ago, the Association of American Railroads reported today. This sharp decline was due, in part, to severe weather conditions in many sectors of the country, which affected production of some goods that move primarily by rail.

Cumulative volume for the first 3 weeks of 1982 was an estimated 42.3 billion ton-miles, 14.7 percent below the comparable period of last year.

Carloadings in the week ended January 16 totaled 320,866 cars, 23.6 percent below 1981, and 11.0 percent lower than the preceding week of this year. Compared with last year, loadings were down 16.6 percent in the East, 31.4 percent in the South, and 23.2 percent in the West.

Compared with the corresponding week of 1981, all of the 21 commodity groups were down. However, 10 of the 21 commodity groups were up from the preceding week of this year.

Piggyback

The AAR also reported that piggyback freight traffic on major railroads for the week ended January 9 totaled 29,196 cars, up 4.0 percent from the corresponding week of 1981, and 54,532 trailers and/or containers, 8.9 percent higher than last year.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first weeks of the year was 52,586 cars, 8.2 percent higher than last year, and 96,452 trailers and/or containers, up 10.7 percent.

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 1/16/82:

	Loadings in Week ended January 16,1982		Change from Corresponding Week 1981			Change from Preceding Week	
	Cars		Cars	Percent		Cars	Percent
Grain	22,682	D	12,853	36.2	I	759	3.5
Other farm products	4,778	D	511	9.7	I	399	9.1
Metallic ores	17,533	D	8,577	32.8	D	2,860	14.0
Coal	88,326	D	15,033	14.5	D	26,347	23.0
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	6,215	D	3,857	38.3	D	2,000	24.3
Nonmetallic minerals	9,787	D	3,099	24.0	D	1,645	14.4
Grain mill products	13,406	D	2,436	15.4	I	547	4.3
Food and kindred products	13,826	D	3,158	18.6	I	11	0.1
Primary forest products	10,785	D	9,123	45.8	D	5,438	33.5
Lumber and wood products except furniture	4,659	D	3,673	44.1	I	64	1.4
Pulp, paper and allied products	15,919	D	4,598	22.4	D	166	1.0
Chemicals and allied products	21,063	D	5,555	20.9	D	2,377	10.1
Petroleum products	5,401	D	511	8.6	I	205	3.9
Stone, clay and glass products	8,483	D	4,505	34.7	D	1,245	12.8
Coke	4,672	D	1,013	17.8	D	620	11.7
Metals and products	10,383	D	4,584	30.6	D	1,206	10.4
Motor vehicles and equipment	11,218	D	5,472	32.8	I	2,645	30.9
Waste and scrap materials	8,478	D	4,967	36.9	I	103	1.2
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	7,578	D	1,072	12.4	I	559	8.0
All other carloads	35,500	D	4,674	11.6	D	1,271	3.5
LCL traffic	174	D	56	24.3	I	25	16.8
Total Cars Loaded	320,866	D	99,327	23.6	D	39,858	11.0
Corresponding week of 1981	420,193						

	1982	1981	% Change
Total Cars Loaded (3 weeks)	970,357	1,171,244	D 17.2
Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions):			
2 Weeks cumulative	28.1	31.8	D 11.6
Week ended January 16	14.1	17.7	D 20.2
3 Weeks cumulative	42.3	49.5	D 14.7

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